



Provincial Reconstruction Team - Baghdad Press Release



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FIREFIGHTERS' DEMONSTRATION EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS

Iraqi firefighters demonstrated their skills responding to fires and simulated bomb attacks; rescuing victims from a three-story building, and medical evacuation at the Joint Fire Training Academy (JFTA) in Baghdad. The Iraqi Civil Defense Department sponsored the event in coordination with U.S. military trainers based at the Provincial Reconstruction Team-Baghdad (PRT-Baghdad).

The dynamic demonstration was attended by MG Abdulrasul, Civil Defense Director, Gen Ali, Baghdad Police Commander, Iraqi Civil Defense and U.S. Army officers, and PRT-Baghdad members, where Iraqi Firefighters showed the skills that they learned in the Joint Fire Training Academy (JFTA).

The demonstration began with a simulated a car bomb, and while the firefighters were putting out the fire they simulated rockets attacks which allowed them to showcase their medical evacuation techniques while securing the area to protect the civilians.

The crowd was then awed by how they deal with fires in occupied tall buildings. First they rescued the civilians and transferred them to a safe site. Reentering the building, they put out the fire, disarmed explosives, and secured hazardous materials.

In his speech, MG Abdulrasul said, "There is no professional or specialist organization that can perform efficiently without continuous training. We, as an organization, could not develop or progress without it either. We thank our American friends for this help."

When questioned about the equipment and the readiness of the firefighters, SSG Gregory Lowe, HAZMAT Advisor, PRT-Baghdad, said, "The Iraqi firefighters are greatly improving technically with the help provided by PRT-Baghdad. There will be always room for development and equipment always an issue, especially with hazardous materials. Firefighters in all countries need new equipment, especially the latest developed ones."

Provincial Reconstruction Team-Baghdad is a civilian-led interagency effort to strengthen the capacity of local Governance and national service institutions to provide essential services, maintain security, promote economic opportunity, advance civil society, and engender respect for the rule of law in Baghdad Province.

Contact the PRT-Baghdad Press Office at Press.Info.PRTB@gmail.com for more information.

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